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NPIC/TSSG/DED-1614-69
8 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Plans & Programs Division, PPBS/NPIC
THROUGH : Chief, Technical Services & Support Group, NPIC
SUBJECT : R&D Status Report on Selected Projects
REFERENCE : PPD/PPBS Speed Letter, Dated 24 December 1968

1. The following April Project Status information is forwarded in response to the request contained in the reference letter:

25X1 a. High Precision Stereo Comparator - [] Project Manager
visited [] the week of 14 April 1969 to monitor the optical subcontract. [] has had some problems with breakage in lens grinding but no major problems have occurred. [] reports they are on schedule but the [] Project Manager feels that [] may slip the schedule up to one month. The work on the instrument at the [] plant in [] is on schedule as well as the correlation subcontract work at []

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25X1 b. Automatic Target Recognition Program - On 21 April the feasibility of automatic cloud screening was demonstrated using optical (diffraction pattern analysis) and electronic techniques. Accuracies of over 90% were attained using operational imagery. It now appears that the optical approach will give the best results for the target look-through problem.

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25X1 Phase IV contract negotiations will start on 13 May for the design and fabrication of an engineering prototype target indexing device. In order to prevent a funding gap, [] is being made available to [] on a contingency basis.

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c. 1540 Light Table - IEG and IAS have essentially completed their operational evaluation of the table. DIA and SPAD are scheduled to finish by 16 May.

d. Dry Silver Material and Equipment - The regular monthly report has been received from the Contractor. MTF and resolving power curves show benefits of the antihalation coating. An additive has been found to combat speed loss found in dry silver paper aging. Formulation will be optimized. An exceptionally good experimental pilot plant coating has been achieved on diazo polyester material.

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e. Wide-Field, High-Power Anamorphic Stereoviewer - A decision is still being anticipated on the Staff Study concerning the use of this instrument by operators who wear eyeglasses. Evaluation of Phase I is in progress and the above decision is an important part of the determination. Additionally, the effort for Phase II appears greater than originally estimated and approximately [] more will be required if approval to continue is granted to []. A Staff Study is being prepared covering this additional expenditure.

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f. Advanced Rhomboids Model II - A second inspection visit in April revealed that the deficiencies in the instrument were not corrected and the prototype is still unacceptable. The contractor has expended the contract funds plus slightly more. In order to correct the deficiencies and make the instrument acceptable, it is estimated an additional 4-5 months time and approximately [] will be required. A stop work order is currently in effect until an action is decided upon. A meeting with [] was held on 8 May and alternatives are now being reviewed.

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g. Automatic Stereo Scanner - All work and changes to the project by [] were halted as of 16 April 1969. Effort prior to the "stop work order" consisted primarily of analysis of the optical problems and proposal preparation. A proposal covering only a limited redesign and optical bench test is being prepared at [] own cost. DED is recommending continuation, under a Fixed Price amendment, with this limited bench test. We will concurrently explore the possibility of transferring the development to another contractor in an effort to preclude further poor management of the project by [].

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h. Image Comparison Microstereoscope - The optical design is complete and the mechanical and electrical designs nearly so. Certain requested mechanical design changes will be reviewed in mid-M and a requested change-of-scope, costing [] will be recommended for approval by the project officer. [] is still forecasting a [] overrun in direct engineering labor costs. At the beginning of April, []--out [] budgeted for these costs--had been expended. The major emphasis now is on the final mechanical design of the stages, the base, and the controls. First optical procurements were released in the last week of April 1969.

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[]
Chief, Development & Engineering Division,
NPIC

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(9 May 1969)

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